

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

On page 1, line 3, of the specification, following “Thunderbolt Disaster Protecting Apparatus,” please add the following paragraph:

This application is filed under 35 U.S.C. 371 from International Application PCT/JP03/014546, with an international filing date of November 14, 2003, which claims the benefit of priority to Japanese Application No. 2002-358018, filed December 10, 2002, Japanese Application No. 2003-162756, filed June 6, 2003, and Japanese Application No. 2003-167517, filed June 12, 2003, which are incorporated by reference in their entirety.

**IN THE ABSTRACT:**

Please replace the Abstract of the Disclosure with the following amended Abstract (beginning on the next page):